

10/517,457

Response to Office Action of March 15, 2006
Via facsimile 571-273-8300
Date of Deposit: June 15, 2006

Attorney Docket Number DE 020148

Amendments to the Specification:

In the title, please amend the title as follows:

Systems for aAptitude tests systemfor testing an object for its intended application

Please amend page 3, line 25 to page 4, line 17 as follows:

Even though the testing of cartridges intended for point of care diagnosis concerns a preferred application of the aptitude test system in accordance with the invention, all kinds of other objects can in principle be tested for aptitude by means of a correspondingly constructed test device. Notably in the medical field there are important further applications, one of which will be described by way of example hereinafter. The object to be tested may be a medicament or a combination of medicaments. This medicament or combination of medicaments is suitable for patients with a given clinical picture and notably have a given physical constitution. The associated aptitude data include above all identification data enabling identification of the medicament or the combination of medicaments. Moreover, the aptitude data may again include a date of expiry. The data carrier may be provided, for example, on a packing of the medicament or the combination of medicaments. Before this medicament or combination of medicaments is administered to a given patient, the aptitude test is performed; for this test the computer knows the patient data of the actual patient which is necessary for the medication of this patient. For example, such patient data includes an indication that the relevant patient may be administered only a given medicament or only a given combination of medicaments. Additionally, or alternatively, the patient data may also include information enabling the computer to test, on the basis of the clinical picture

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and notably the physical constitution of the relevant patient, whether the intended medication is suitable for this patient. The patient data may also include a medication timetable on the basis of which the computer can determine whether the intended medication is permissible or not at the current instant. Additionally, the date of expiry of the intended medication can also be tested. In this embodiment incorrect medication can better be avoided ~~better~~. The protection against incorrect medication can be additionally improved in particular in conjunction with a processing device which is suitable for opening a packing; the packing of the medicament or the combination of medicaments is then opened exclusively if the computer instructs the processing device to open the packing after a positive aptitude test.

Please amend page 4, line 19 to page 5, line 5 as follows:

In addition to the foregoing examples from the medical field, the aptitude test system in accordance with the invention can also be used in other fields. A further embodiment will be described hereinafter by way of example. In conformity with an advantageous embodiment, the test device may be a cash register or be integrated in such a register. The objects are then consumer products provided with a date of expiry, until which appropriate use of the object is to be ensured. The objects are notably items of food which should be consumed before the date of expiry. The aptitude data of such objects then includes at least the date of expiry associated with the relevant object. Modern cash registers operate with an optical reading apparatus which reads the data provided on the relevant articles, usually being an article number. On the basis of the article number a computer of the cash register

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can associate an article description as well as the price of the article with the article. In accordance with the invention it is proposed to add the date of expiry to the data associated with the article, so that upon reading the date of expiry can also be read so as to compare it with the current date. When this aptitude test reveals that the date of expiry of the relevant article has already been passed, the computer generates the alarm signal which initiates, for example, in the test device or the cash register, the output of an optical and/or acoustic alarm. The customer can then be informed that the date of expiry has been passed and the customer can then decide whether or not to purchase the article nevertheless. Additionally, or alternatively, a reduced price could be automatically assigned to the relevant article if the date of expiry date has been passed. The resultant enhanced comfort and advantages for the user as well as the advantages in respect of customer friendliness for the warehouses will be evident.